

Approved For Release 2009/06/17 : CIA-RDP89-00642R000200160006-0

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Stan: If this is not an answer,
please draft one for [redacted]

NOT NEEDED
SUBSCRIPTION QUESTION ON /

9

FILE UV 11-03

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE 1 Sep 78
TO:	Acting Chief, FCS STAT	
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	STAT
REMARKS: <p>Attached is a copy of [redacted] evaluation of PTI covering most of the month of August. The bureau feels it well supports its recommendation not to undertake a full-year's contract with PTI at a cost of \$9,000. I've also included a short postscript of my own to Susan's report as well as copies of the Bombay PTI items we filed in the period covered by the report.</p> <p><i>Agree</i> <i>not worth it</i></p>		
		STAT
		STAT
FROM: [redacted], Deputy Chief, FBIS Bangkok		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

27 August 1978

TO: Deputy Chief

F.O.: [redacted]

RE: Evaluation of PTI Productivity

The following is an evaluation of the Press Trust of India (PTI) newscast for the period 1-25 August.

During the evaluation period, nine PTI items were filed, five technically and four as briefs. Of the nine, seven were on an international topic and involved India, while the remaining two treated domestic issues.

Six of the items filed from PTI were never covered by PTI or Delhi radio. These are:

India, USSR Reach Agreement on Machine Building Plants
FAO Food Conference (brief)
Supreme Soviet's Barkauskas Satisfied With Indo-Soviet Ties
Work on Missile Station (brief)
Encephalitis in West Bengal (brief)
Soviet Shipping Experts (brief)

It is noteworthy that a report on Vajpayee's plan to visit the Soviet Union was carried and filed from PTI on 19 August but not reported by Delhi radio until 24 August.

A PTI report on Desai inaugurating the ESCAP trade ministers meeting in New Delhi was filed, goose-egged to a longer ISI report naming the conference participants. However, a Delhi radio report covering the same material as the PTI report as well as a longer, 4-minute report were both held. Thus, PTI did not provide any material not available from other sources.

Desai's remarks on nuclear fuel talks with the United Kingdom, filed from PTI, were carried by ISI but held.

At the current subscription rate of \$750 per month, we have paid approximately \$83 per item during the 1-25 August trial. Since three of the items which were filed from PTI were available from other sources, it is doubtful that the need for the remaining six justifies the high cost.

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We might add that August was by no means a slow news month in India. Among other developments were further legal moves in the case against Mrs. Gandhi, charges of corruption against the son of Prime Minister Desai, continuing fallout from the internal political squabbling in the ruling Janata party, and extensive traveling by the Indian external affairs minister. All of these, as well as other important developments, were well covered by Delhi radio or ISI.

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